

December 18, 2003

ALEC FISKEN  
3412 NE 115<sup>TH</sup> ST  
SEATTLE WA 98125

Subject: PDC Case No. 04-245

Dear Mr. Fiskens:

The Public Disclosure Commission staff has completed its investigation of your complaint received September 16, 2003, alleging that the Clare Nordquist campaign failed to report campaign expenditures and/or debts.

The PDC staff reviewed your allegations in light of the following statutes:

**RCW 42.17.080** and **42.17.090** require candidates appearing on the primary and/or general election ballots to file frequent and detailed reports of contributions. RCW 42.17.090(1)(h) specifically requires a candidate to report any debt, obligation, note, unpaid loan, or other liability in the amount of more than two hundred fifty dollars.

You alleged that the Nordquist campaign failed to report payments made or debt incurred for broadcast advertisements.

We found that:

- The Friends of Clare Nordquist campaign first consulted with GSM Mercury on August 26, 2003 for televised political advertisements. GSM Mercury produced the advertisements which first aired on September 5, 2003.
- GSM Mercury issued a \$44,829.63 invoice to the Friends of Clare Nordquist on September 11, 2003 for the contracted work.
- The \$44,829.63 debt should have been reported on the campaign's 7-day pre-Primary Election C-4 report due September 9, 2003. The \$44,829.63 debt and an additional \$600 debt were reported on September 12, 2003, three days after the due date and four days before the Primary Election.

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- Friends of Clare Nordquist treasurer, Ross McIvor, explained that the debts were not timely reported because he has limited experience as a campaign treasurer and was not aware that campaign debts must be reported.

The PDC staff does not condone late-filed or incomplete reports, but in this instance the public was only deprived of candidate information for a very short period of time. Friends of Clare Nordquist quickly remedied the reporting error after being contacted by PDC staff, and the information was available to the public four days before the election. Mr. Nordquist will be cautioned to file timely, complete campaign reports in the future.

After a careful review of the alleged violations and relevant facts, we have concluded our investigation and, with the concurrence of the Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, I am dismissing your complaint against the Clare Nordquist campaign.

If you have questions, please contact Phil Stutzman, Director of Compliance, at (360) 664-8853 or toll free at 1-877-601-2828.

Sincerely,

Vicki Rippie  
Executive Director

c: Clare Nordquist